

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

2017 Recreational Boating Incident Summary



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Boating in Virginia

- River Miles – 52,225 miles (source VDEQ)
- Coastline – 132 miles (source VIMS)
- Tidal Shore – 7,213 (source VIMS)
- Inland Lakes – 116,364 acres (source VDEQ)

Reportable Incidents

Incidents that are required to be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

- Damage over \$2,000 by or to the vessel or its equipment
- Injury requiring medical aid beyond first aid
- Loss of life
- Disappearance of any person from a vessel

no life jacket
alcohol
weather
unknown
drown
male
kayak
fishing
open motorboat
operator inexperience
missing Cherrystone Creek
overloading
female
hazardous waters
Burke Lake
James River
Lake Anna
Chesapeake Bay
Carvins Cove
sailboat
Laurel Creek
capsized
jon boat
cabin motorboat
Buggs Island
private pond
excessive speed



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**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH
BOATING FATALITIES**

2017 Virginia Boating Incident Summary*

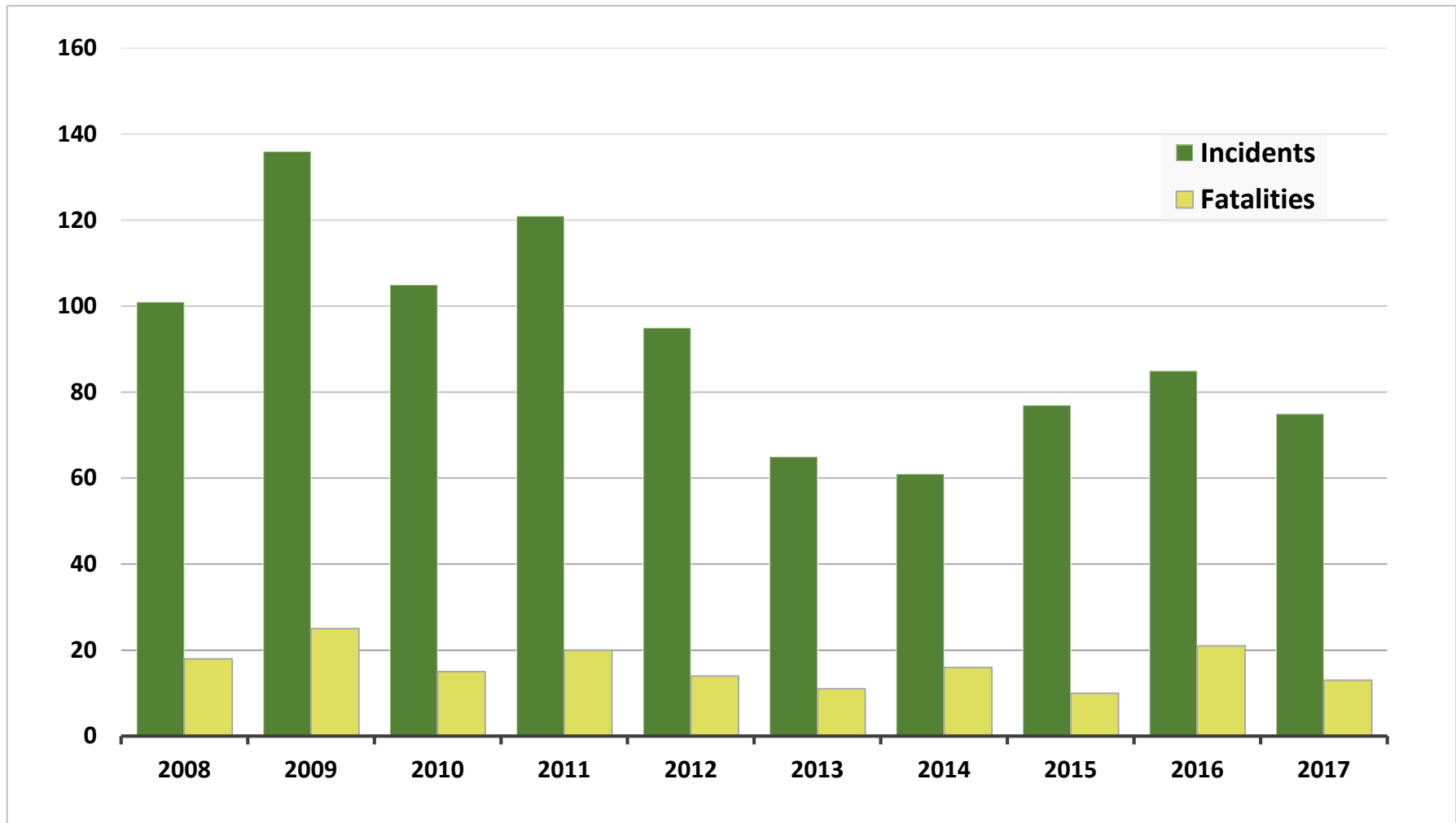
- Number of Incidents = 75
- Number of Vessels Involved = 99
- Number of Injuries = 44
- Number of Fatalities = 13 (1 missing presumed deceased)
 - Alcohol was a known factor in 38% of fatal incidents.
 - Paddlecraft (canoes and kayaks) were involved in 38% of fatal incidents.
 - 77% of Fatalities were not wearing a life jacket.
- Property Damage = \$ 308,160

*reported to DGIF

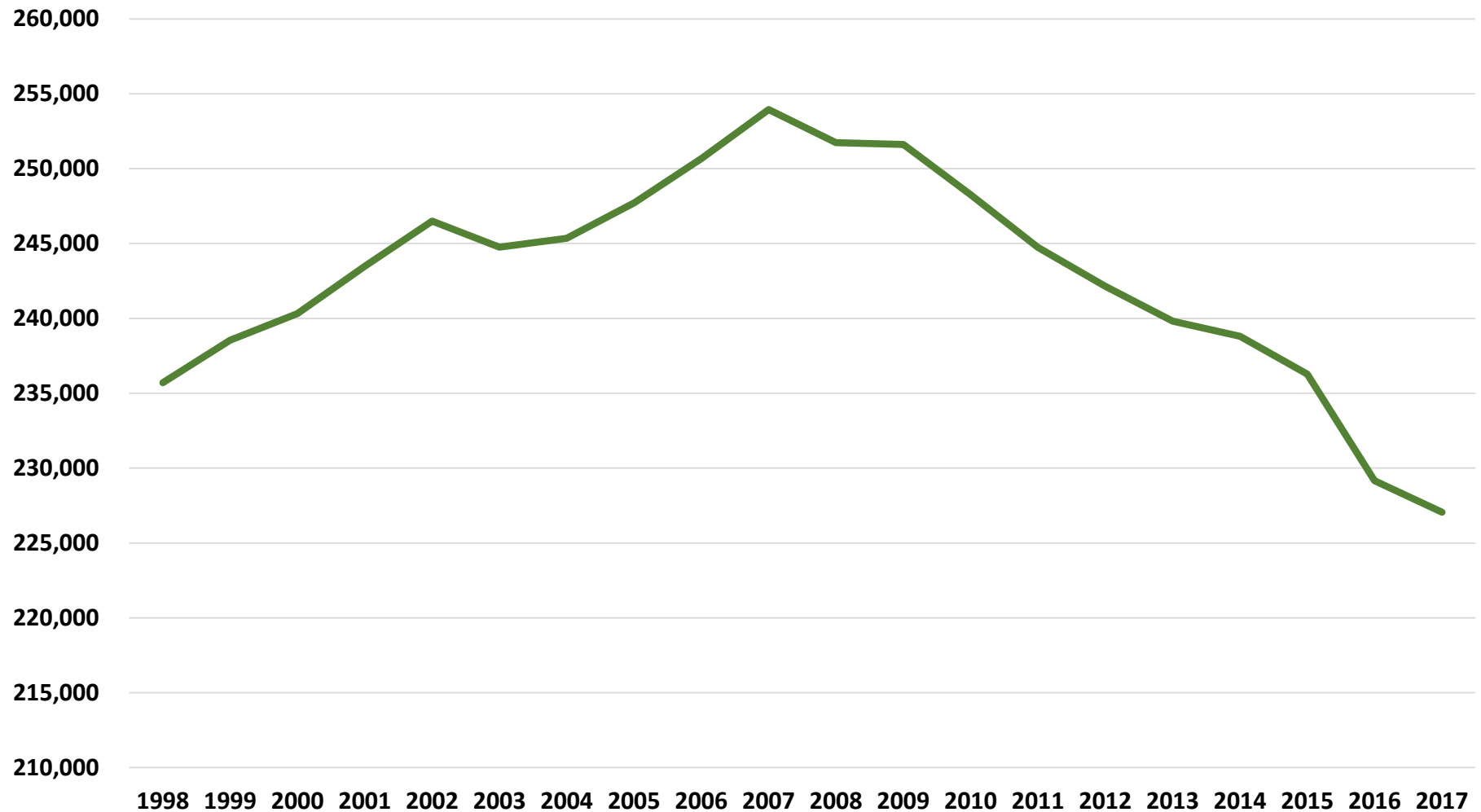
10 Year Boat Incident Summary

Year	Incidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage
2008	101	58	18	\$387,668.00
2009	136	91	25	\$907,900.00
2010	105	79	15	\$1,898,499.00
2011	121	95	20	\$1,228,360.00
2012	95	64	14	\$476,584.00
2013	65	44	11	\$986,945.00
2014	61	38	16	\$617,916.00
2015	77	37	10	\$441,301.00
2016	85	42	21	\$576,546.00
2017	75	44	13	\$308,160.00

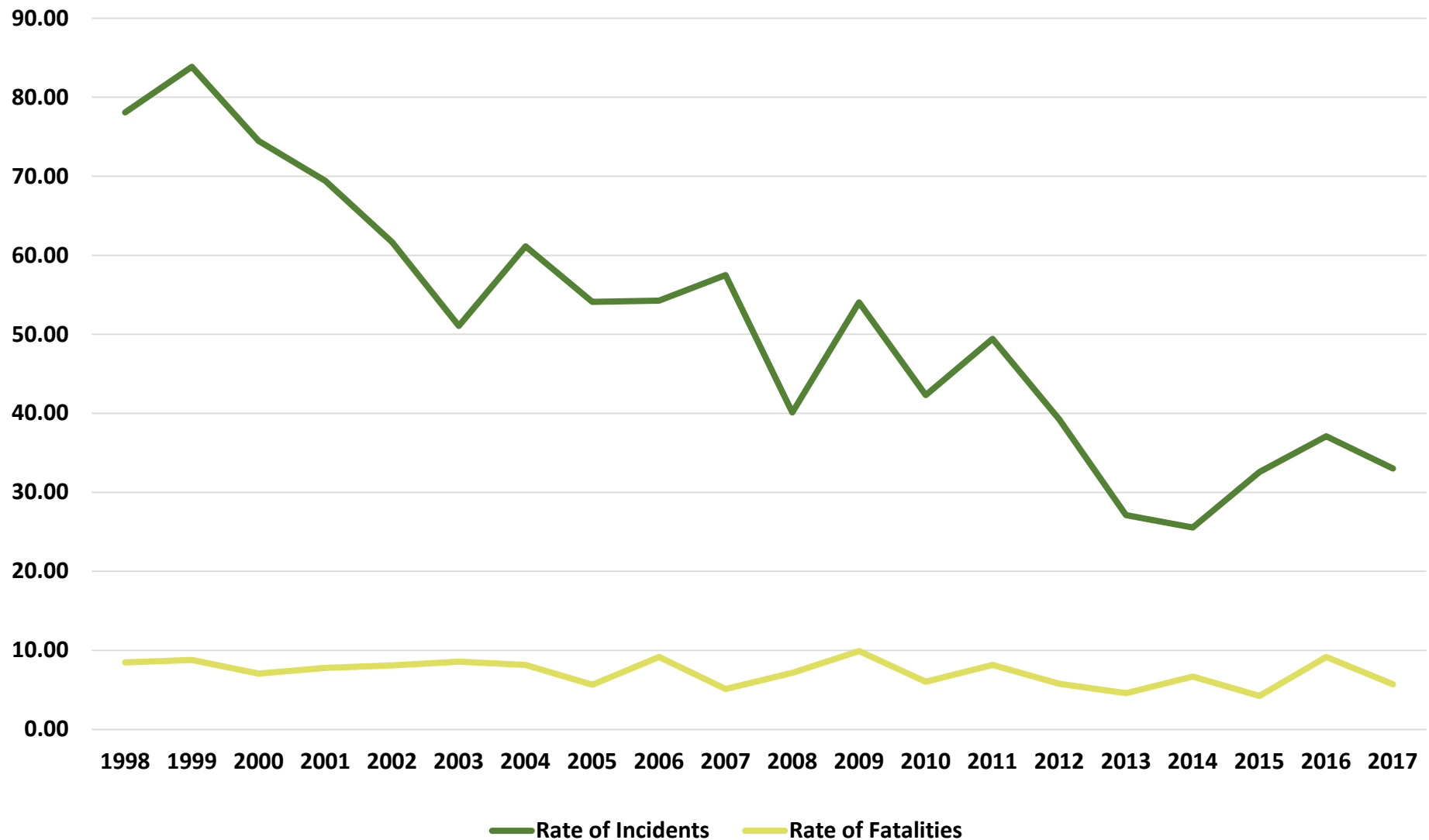
10 Year Boating Incident Statistics



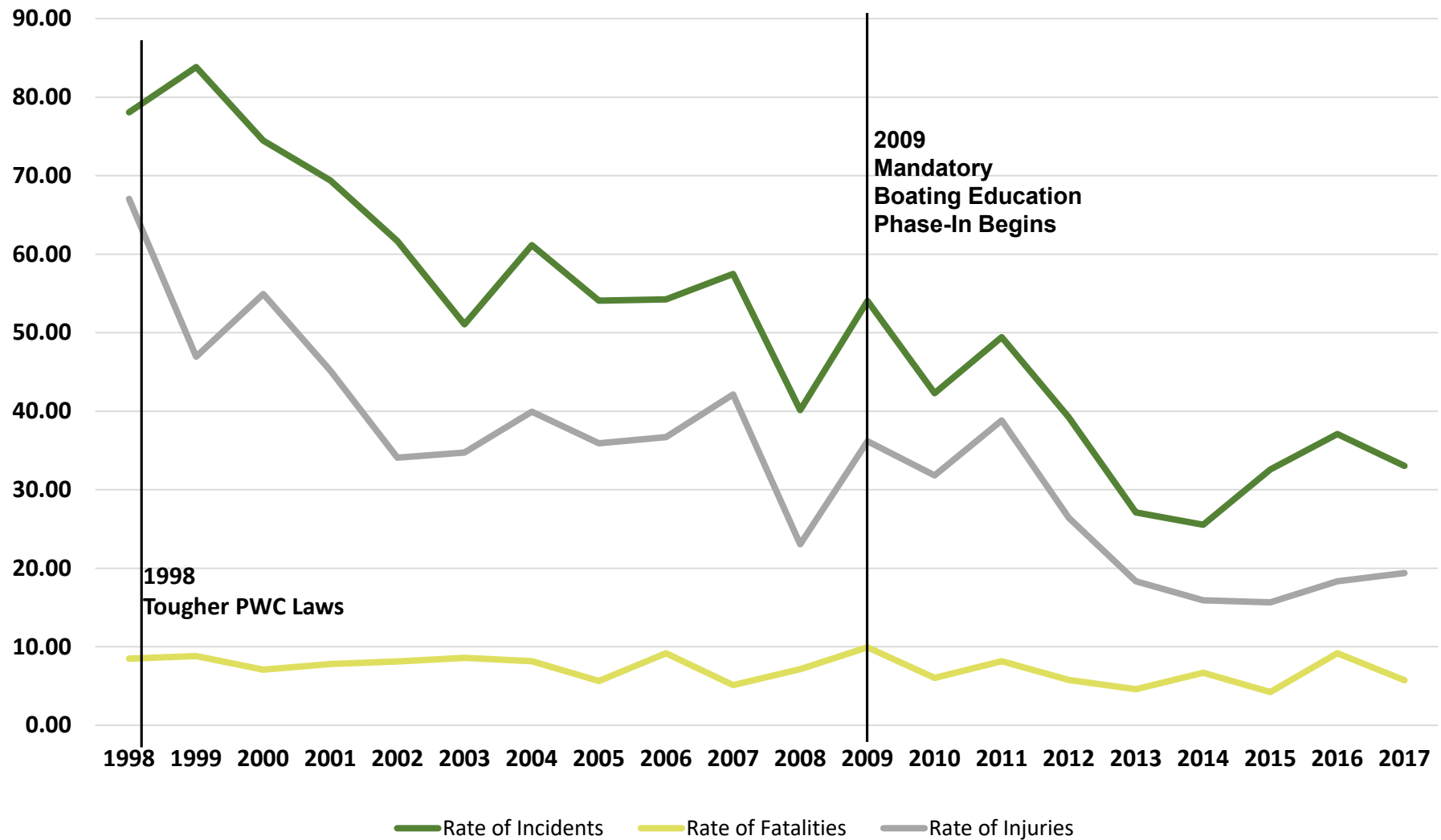
Recreational Vessels Registered in Virginia by Year 1998-2017



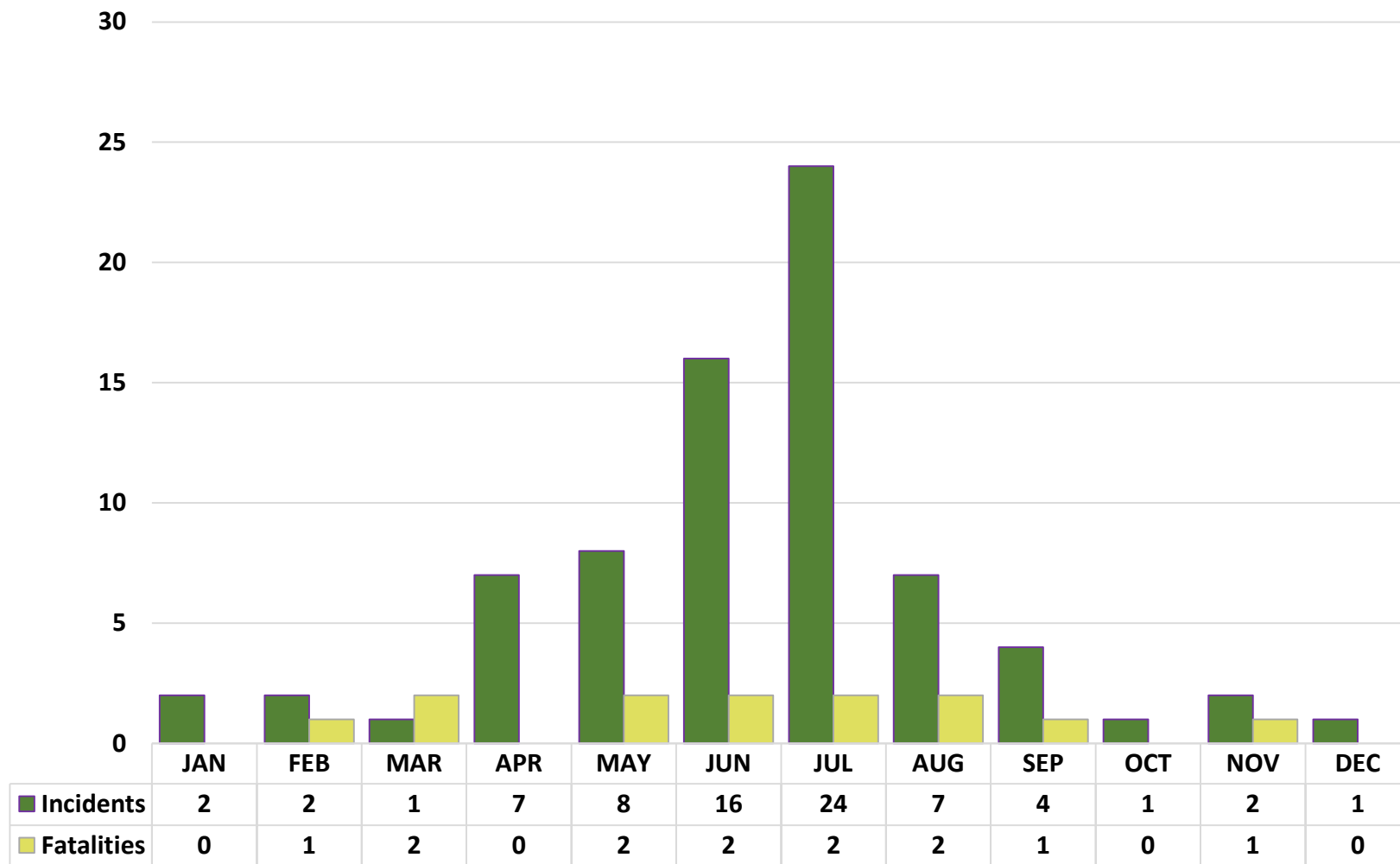
Annual Recreational Boating Incident Rate 1998 - 2017 (per 100,000 Registered Boats)



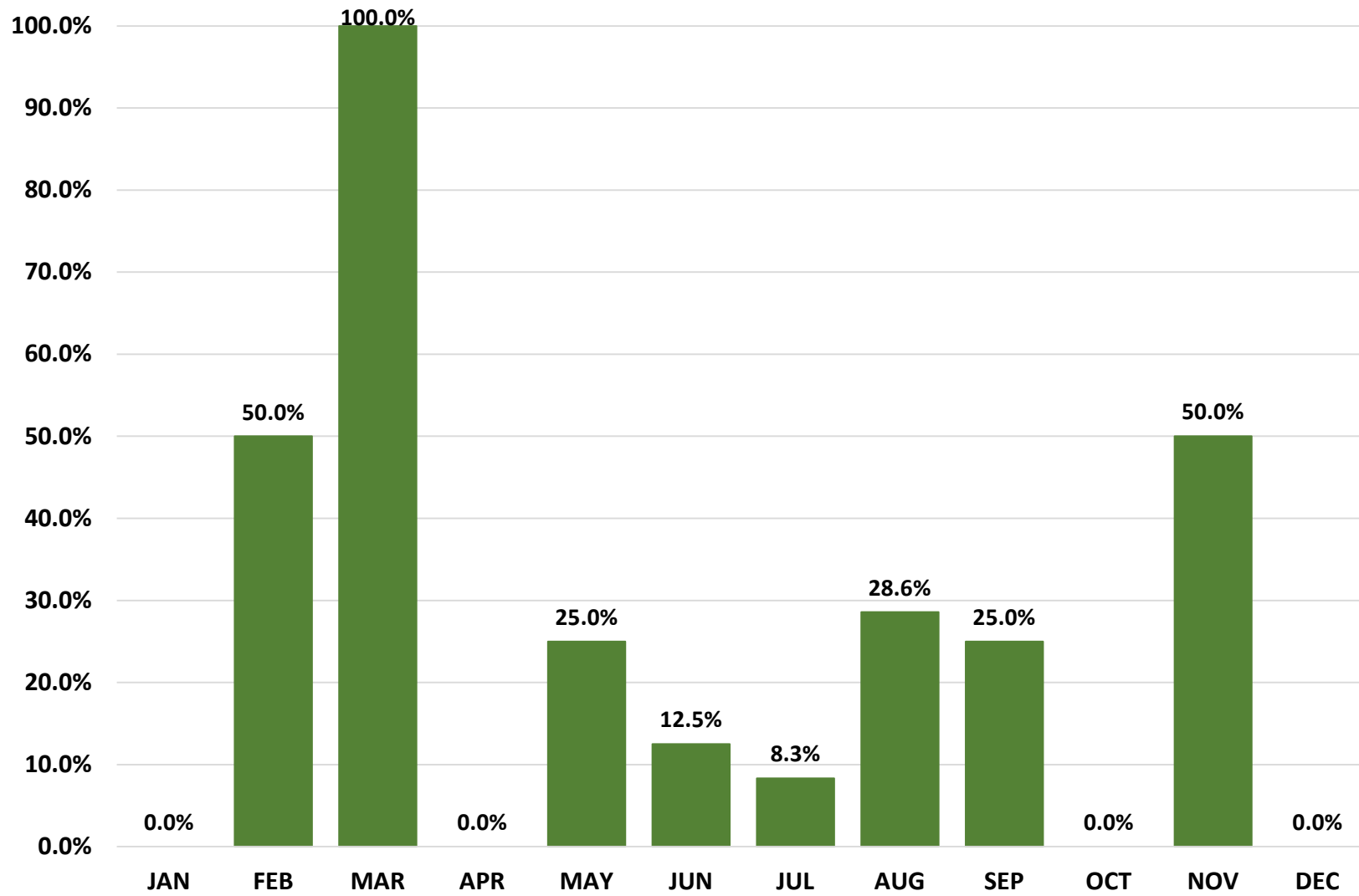
Fatalities, Injuries, and Incidents By Year 1998 - 2017



2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Month

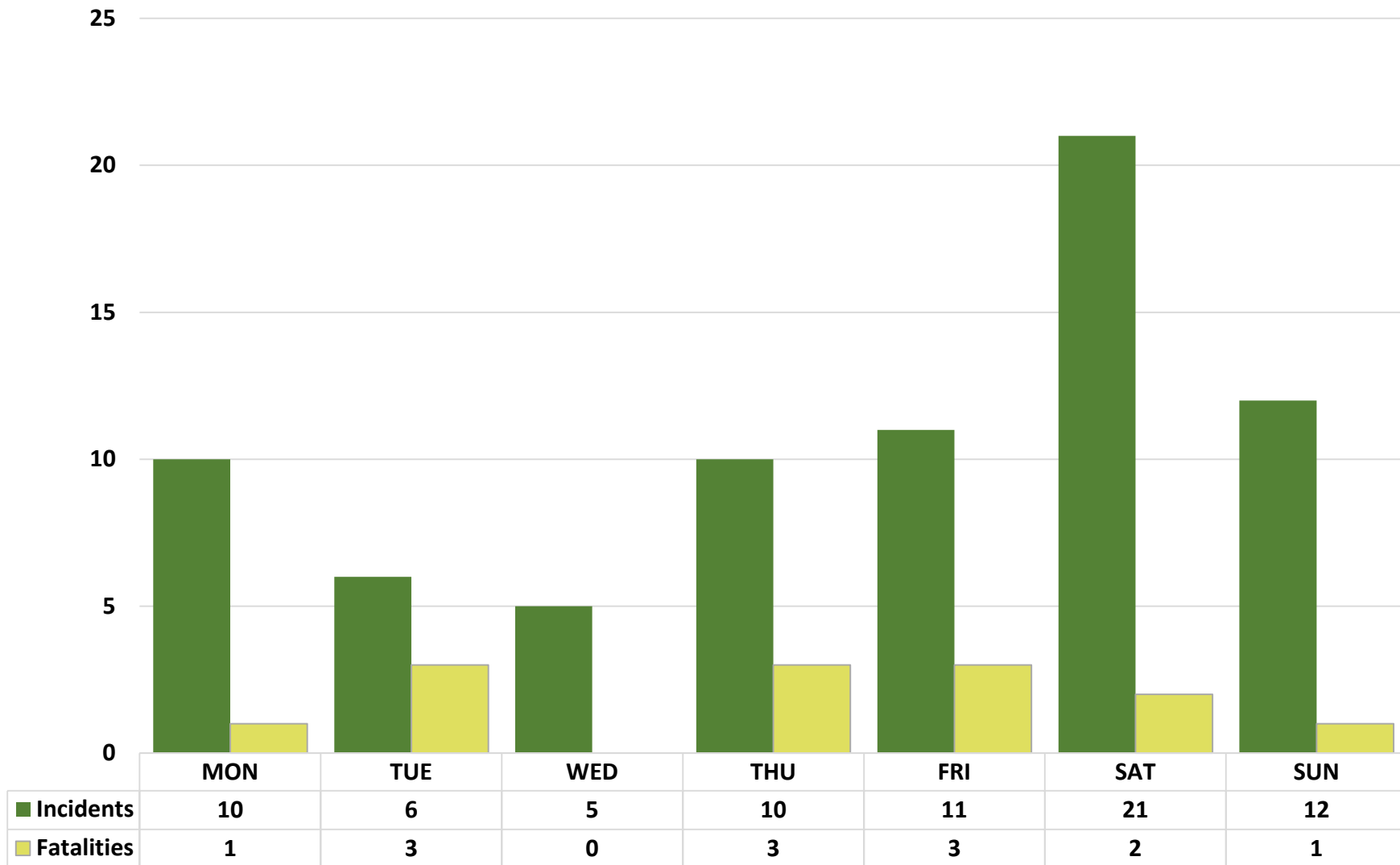


2017 Percentage of Incidents Each Month that were Fatal



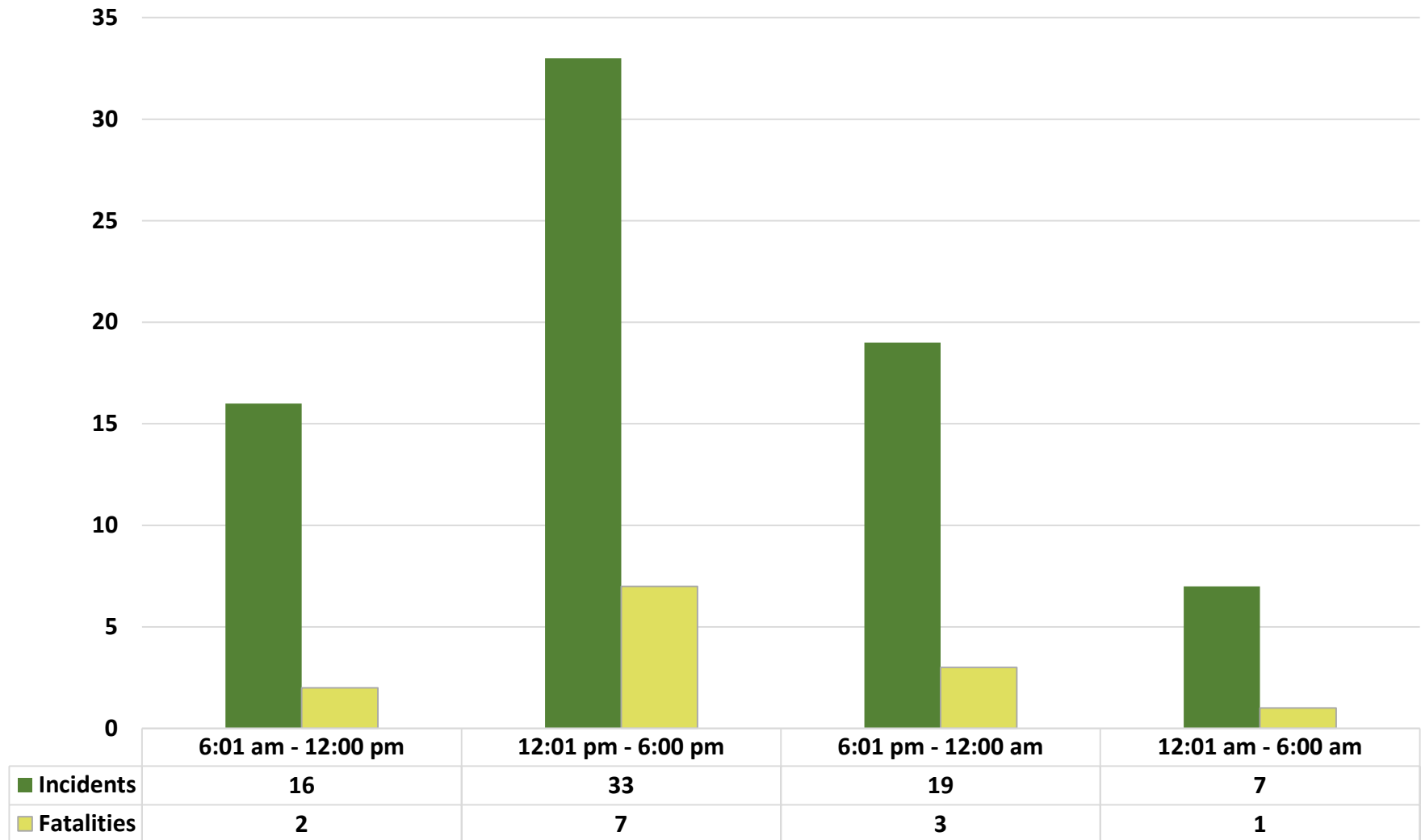
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2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Day of Week

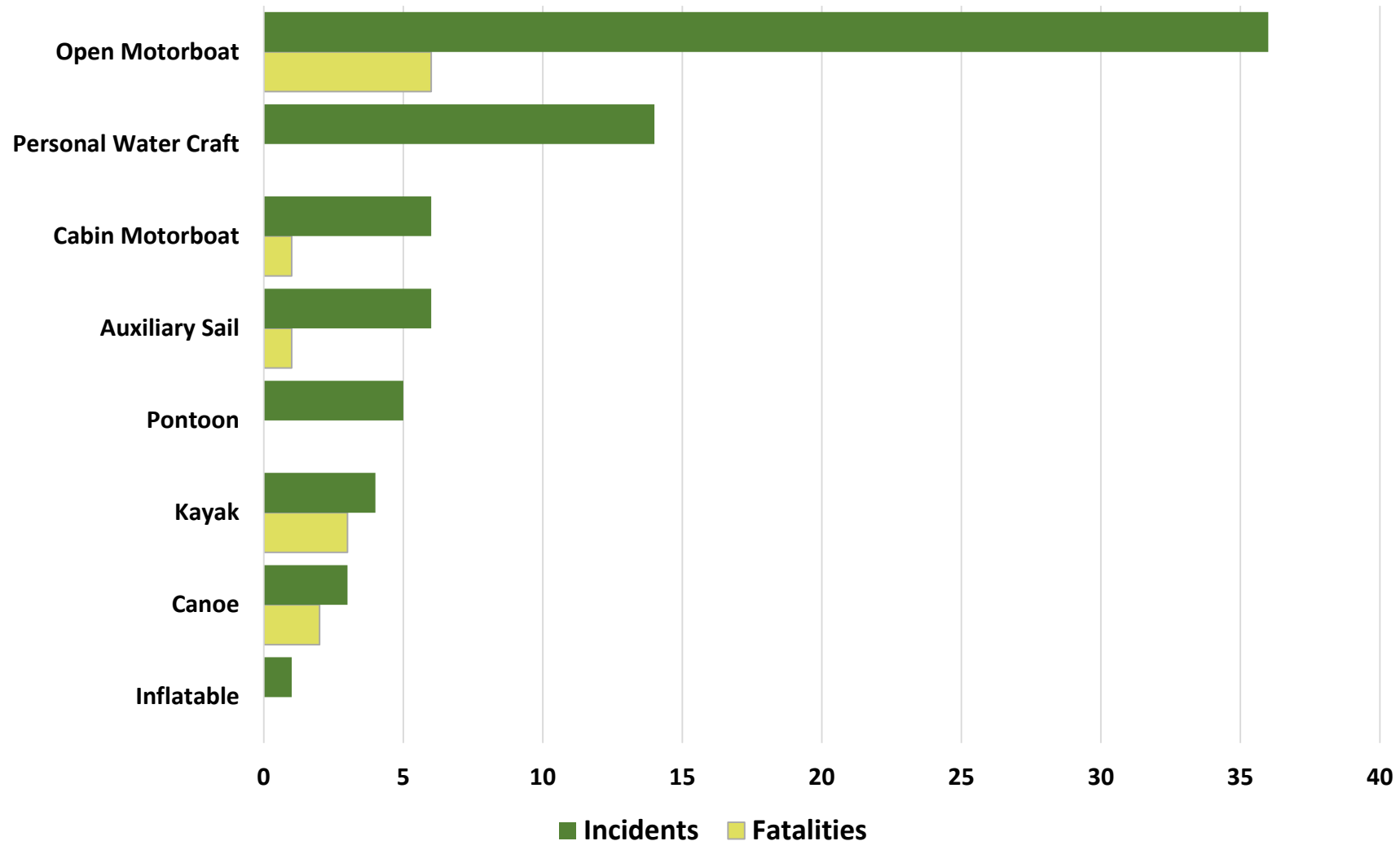


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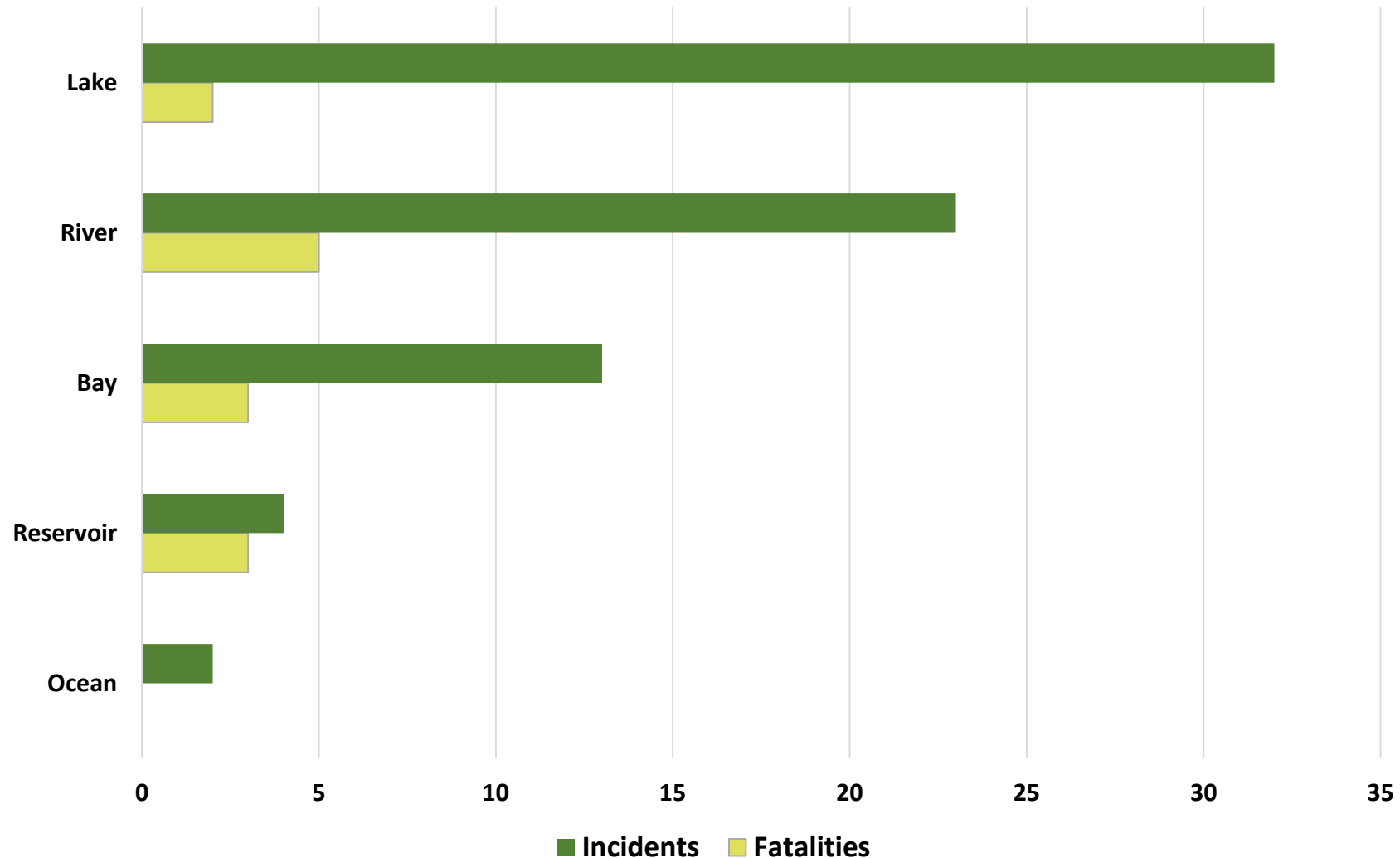
2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Time of Day



2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Vessel Type

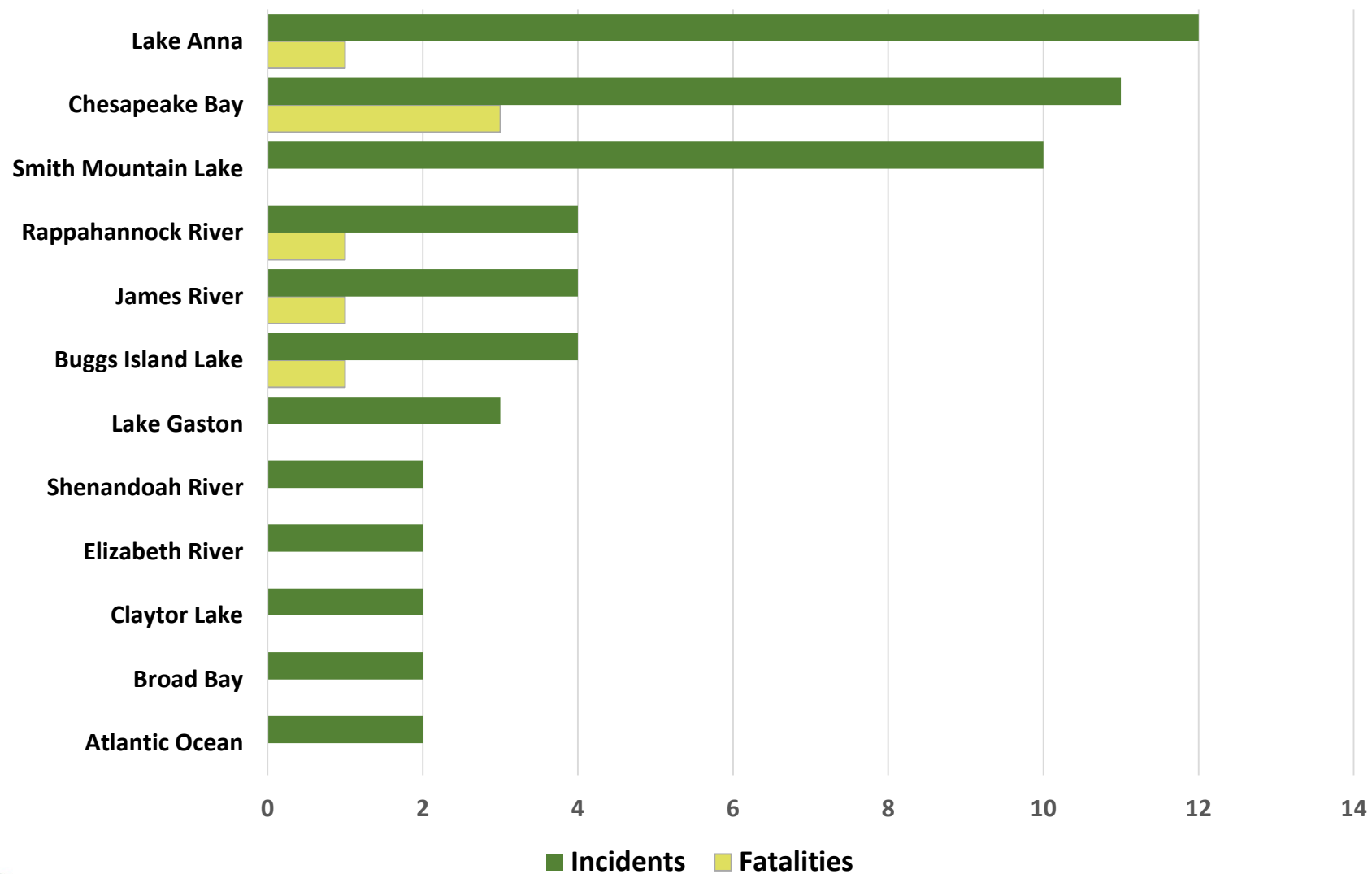


2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Water Body Type



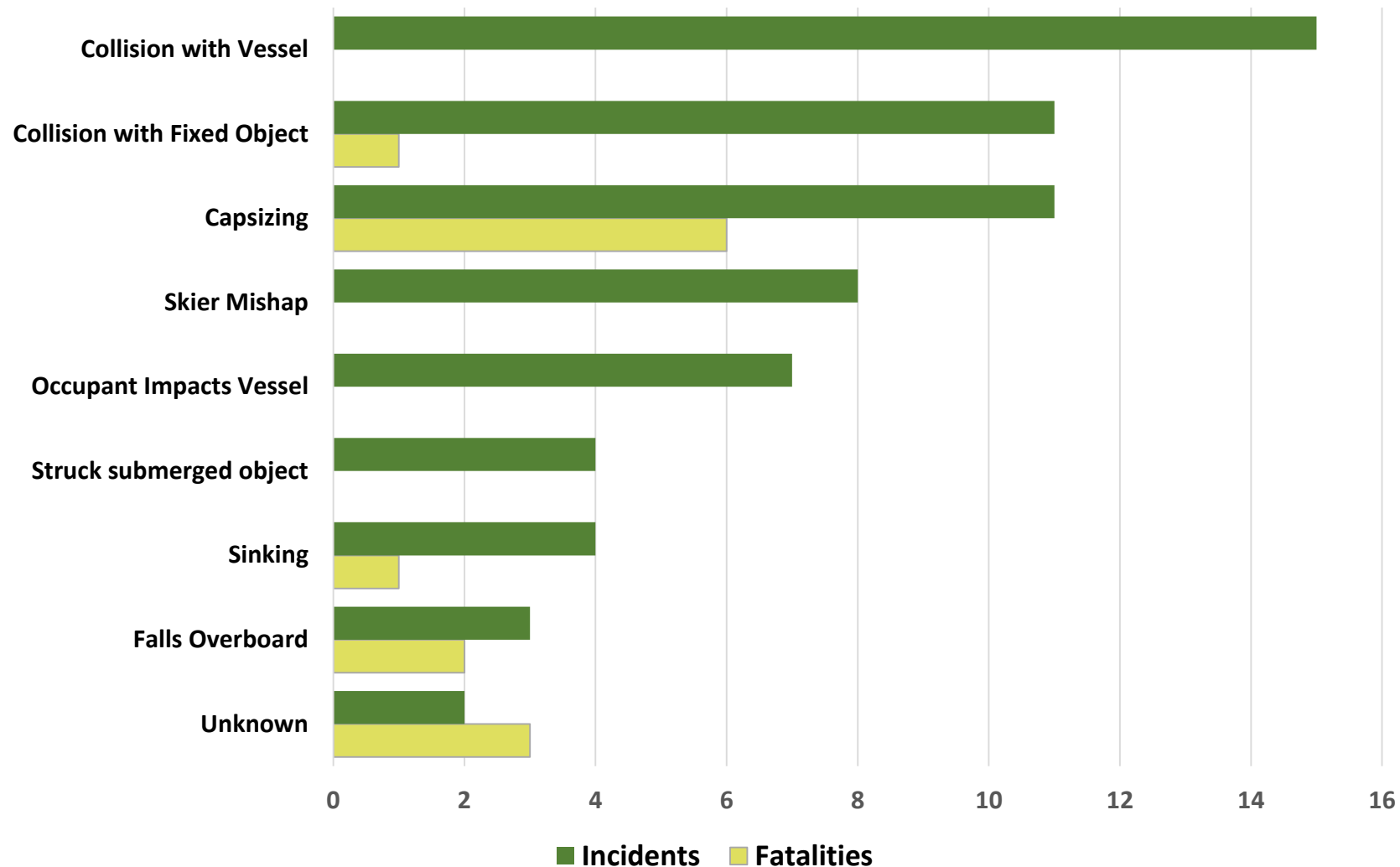
2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

Top Locations of Incidents

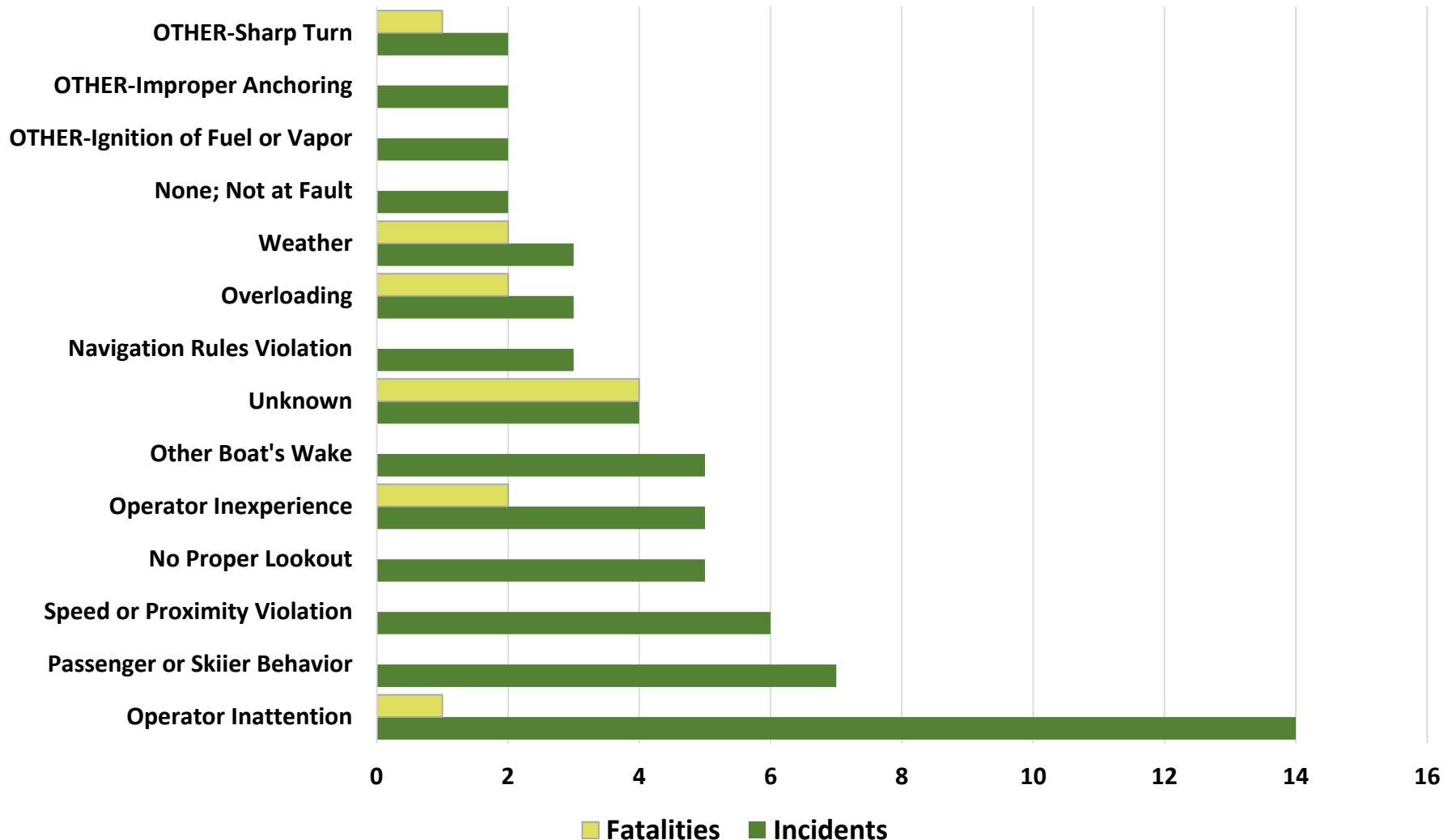


2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

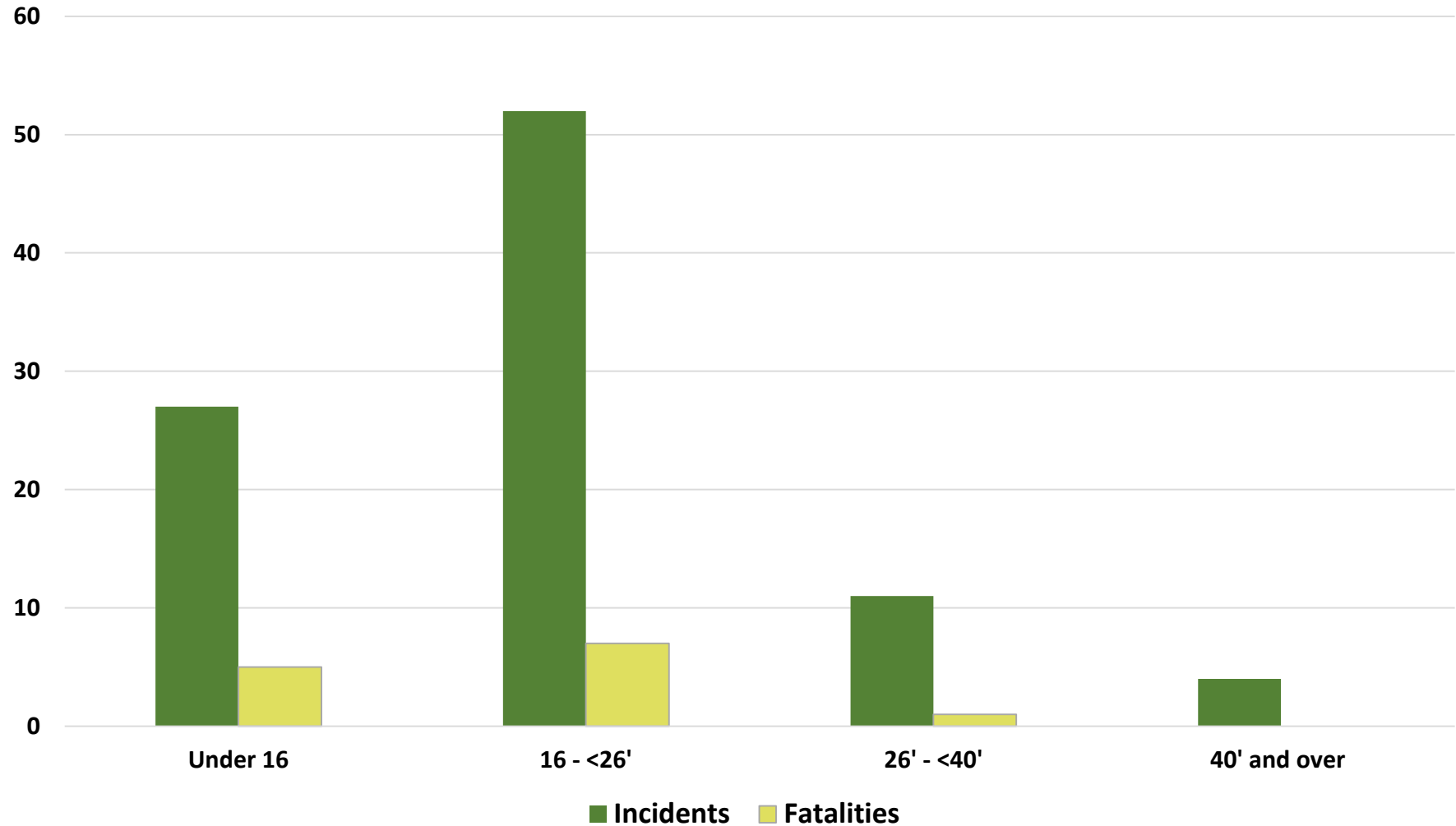
Top Primary Incident Types



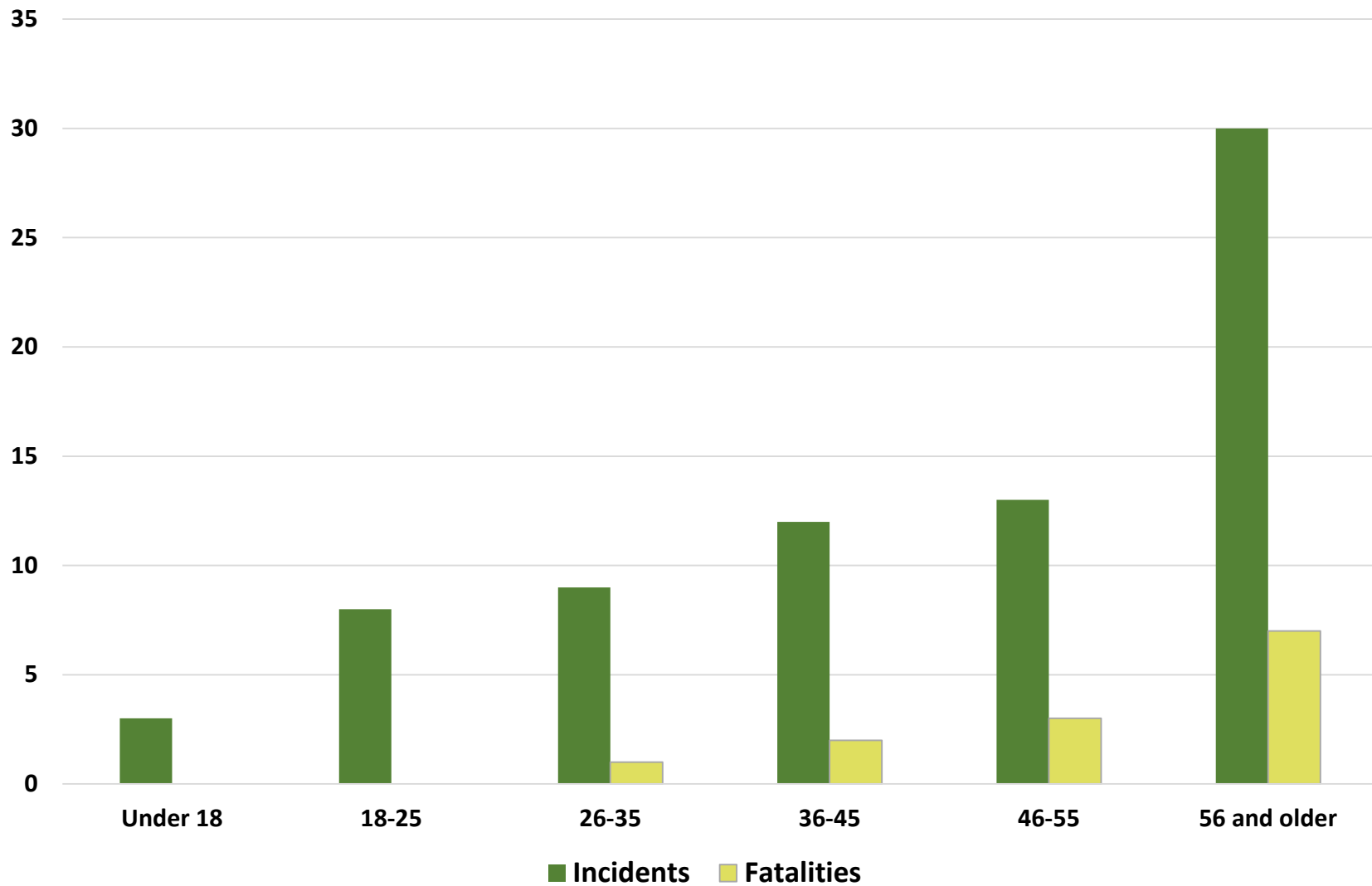
2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities – Top Primary Contributing Factor



2017 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Vessel Size

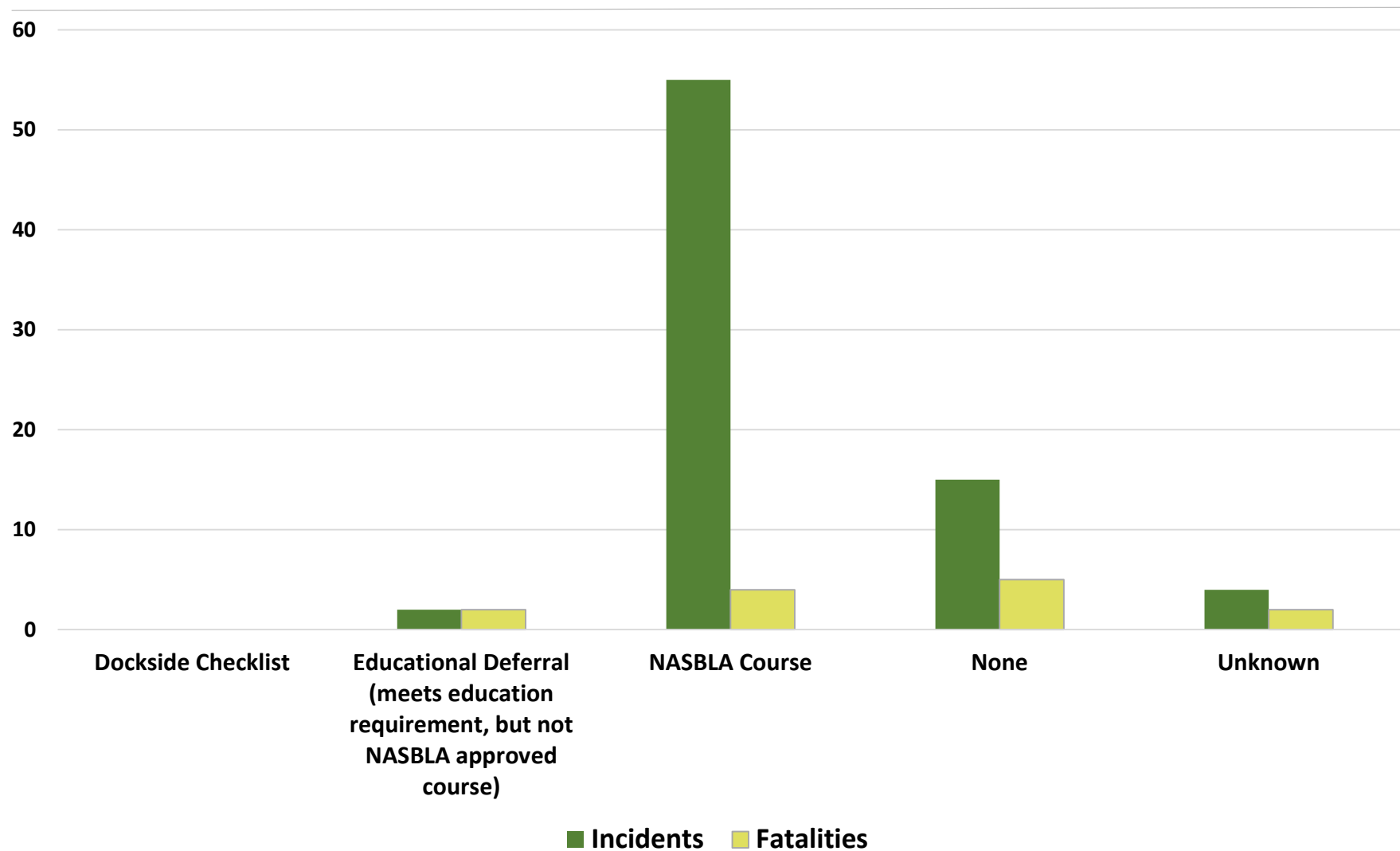


2017 Boat Incidents Age of Operators



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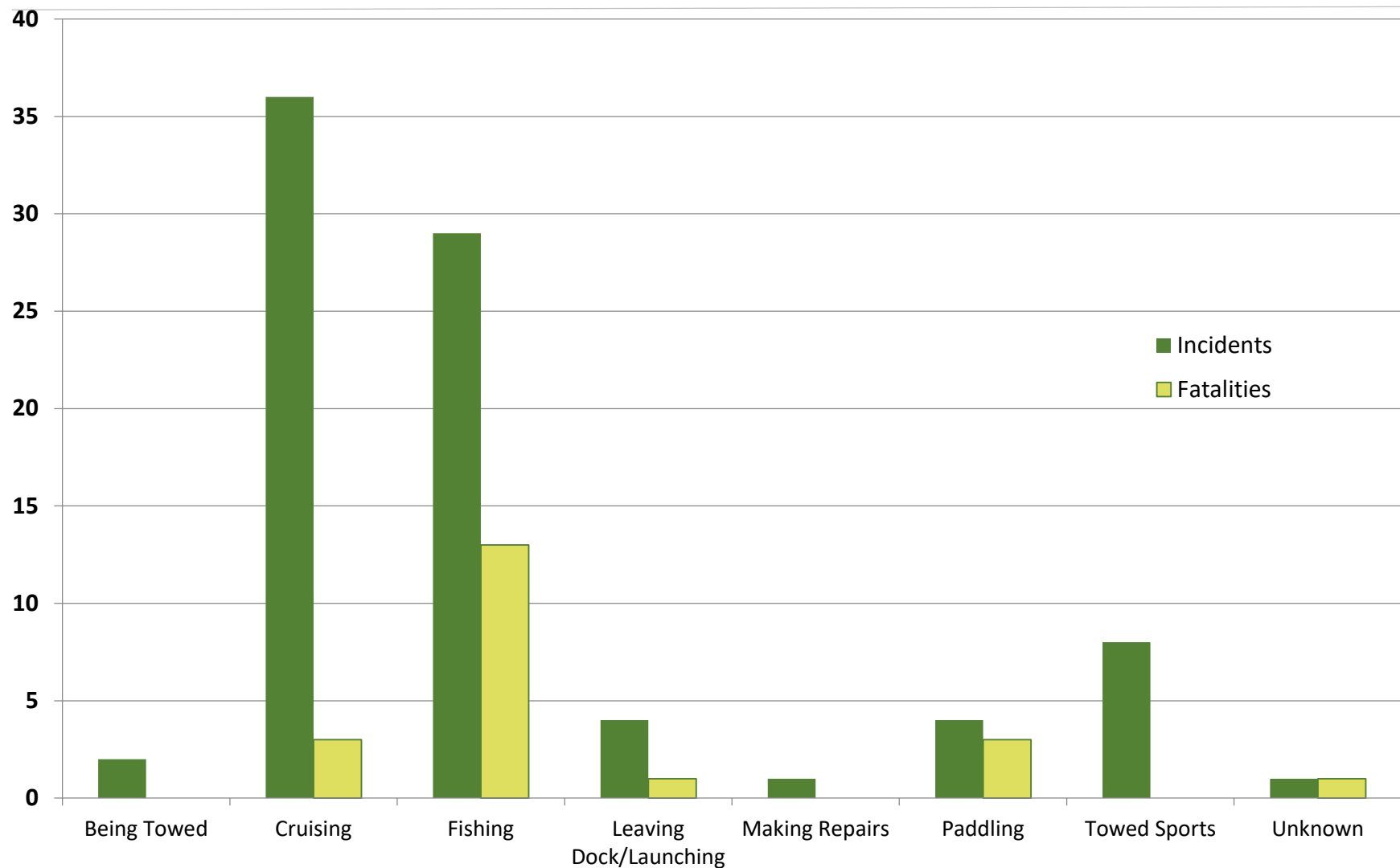
2017 Boat Incidents Education of Operators



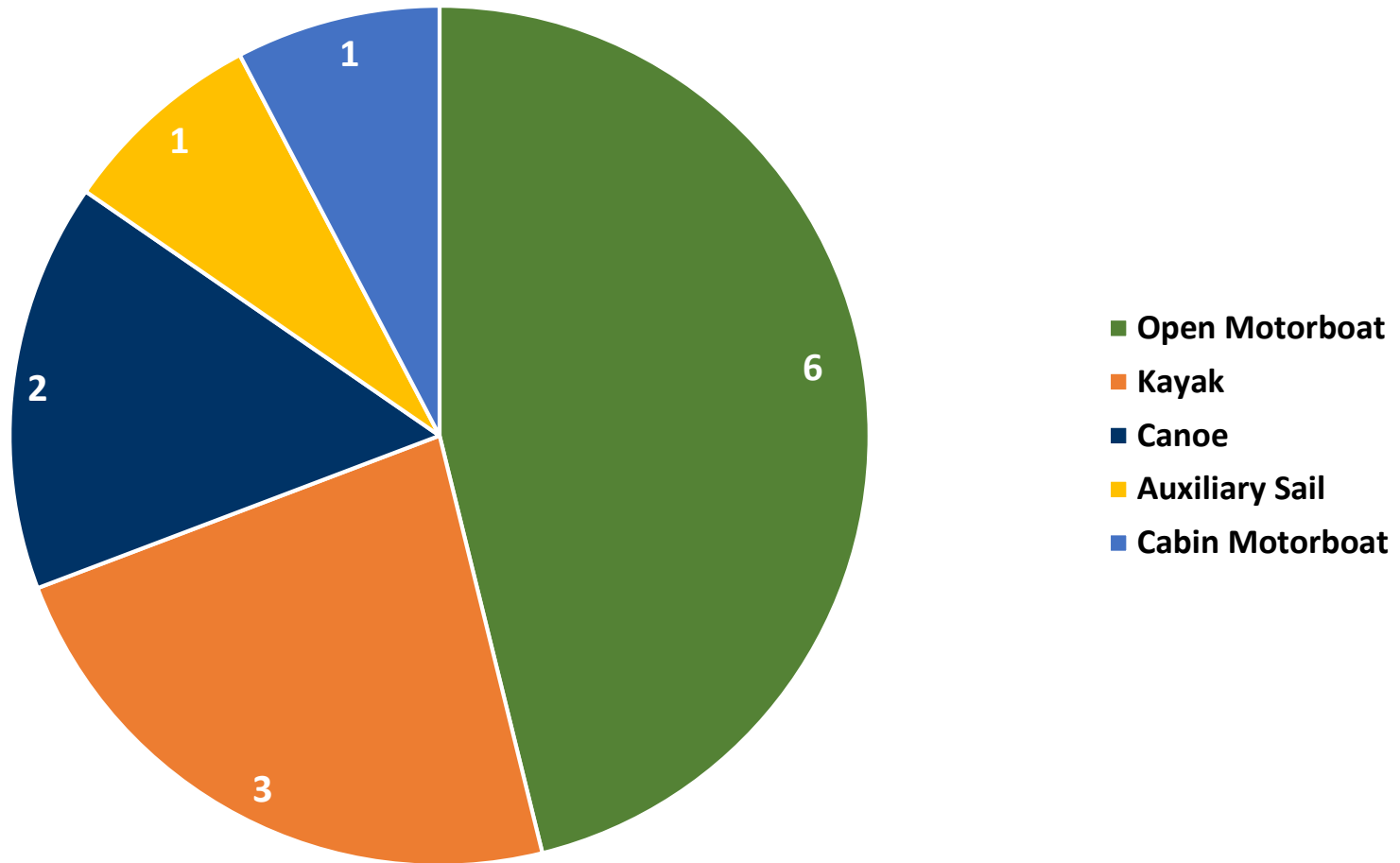
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2017 Boating Incidents

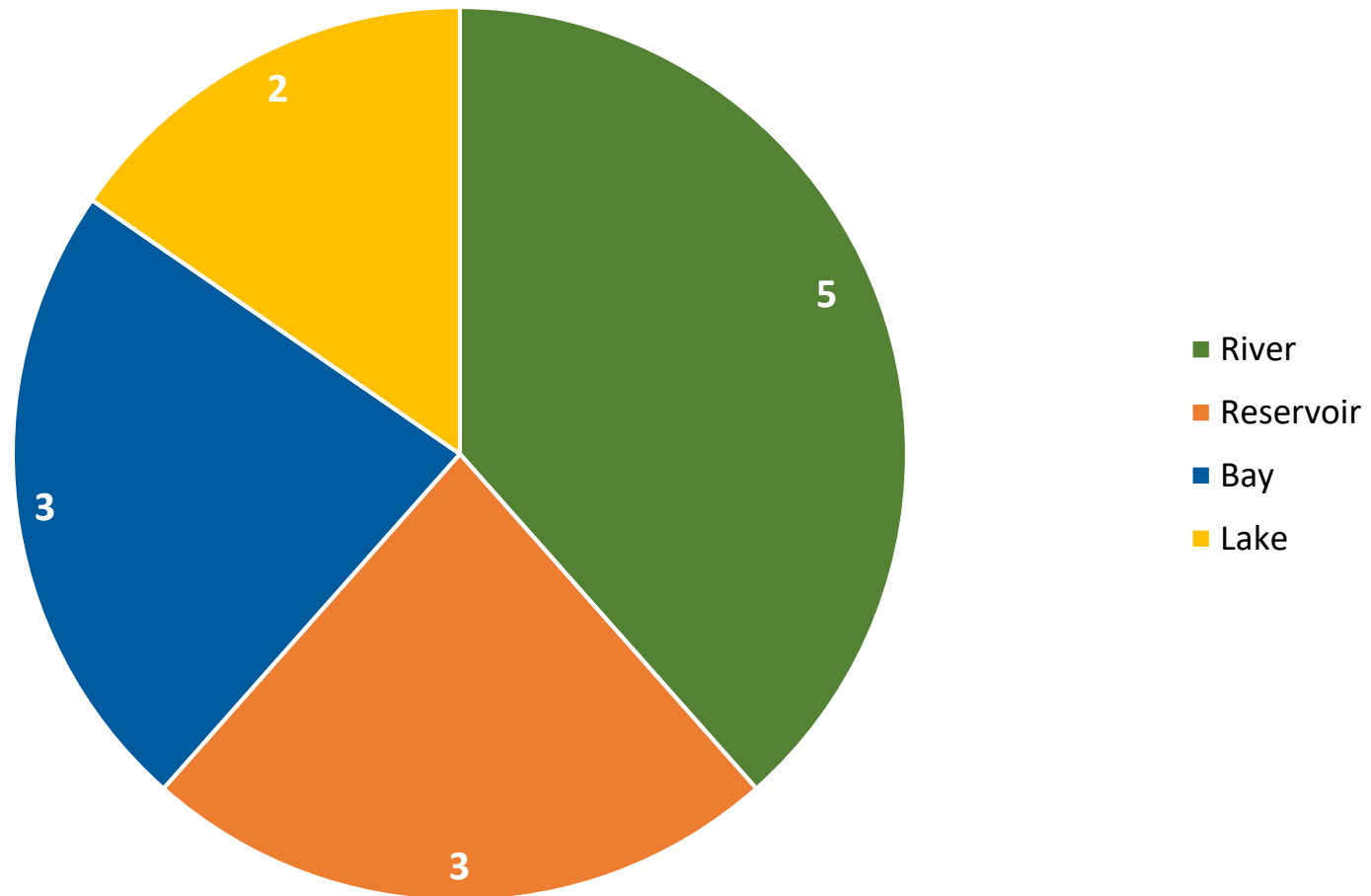
Top Vessel Activity at Time of Incident



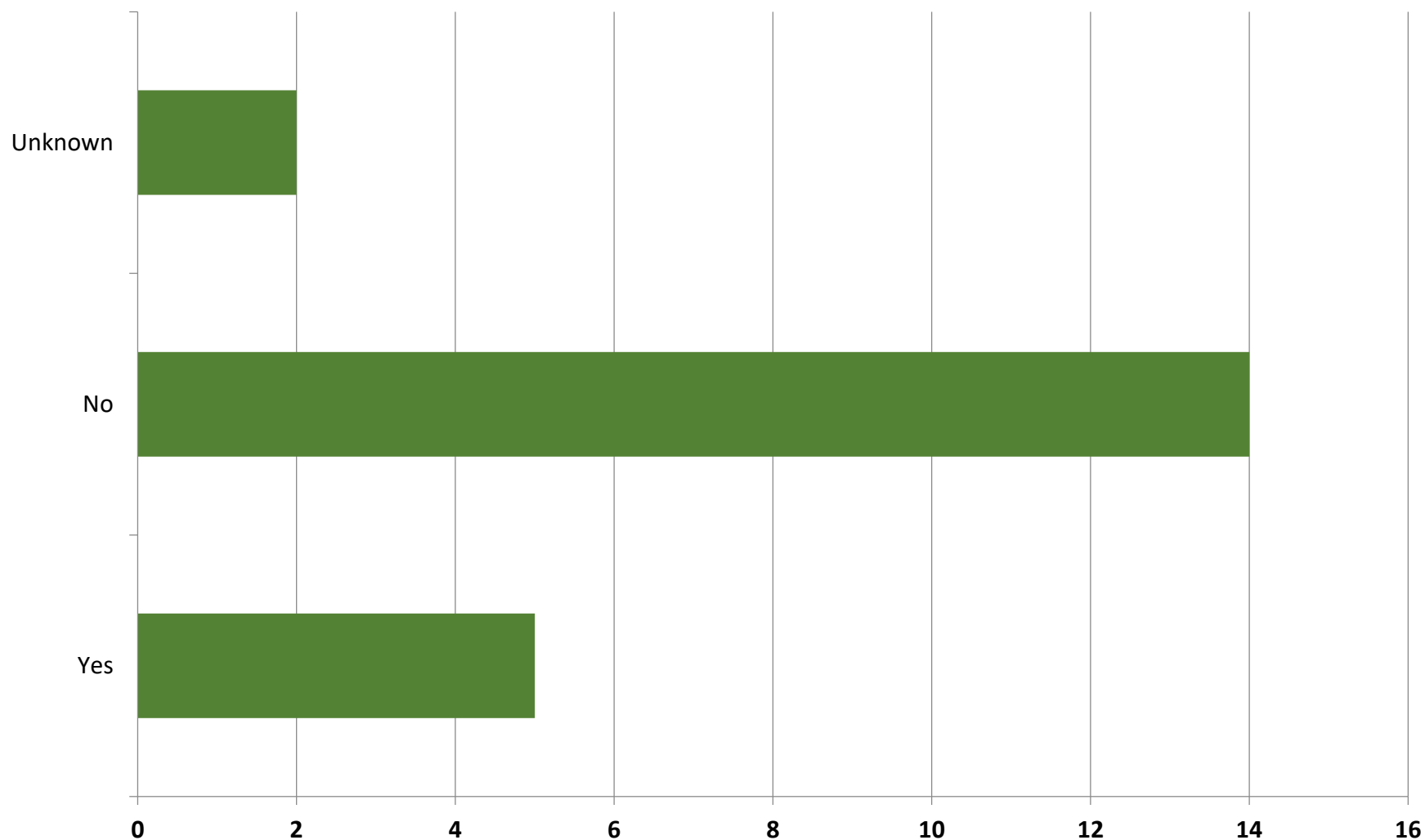
2017 Boating Fatalities By Vessel Type



2017 Boating Fatalities By Waterbody Type

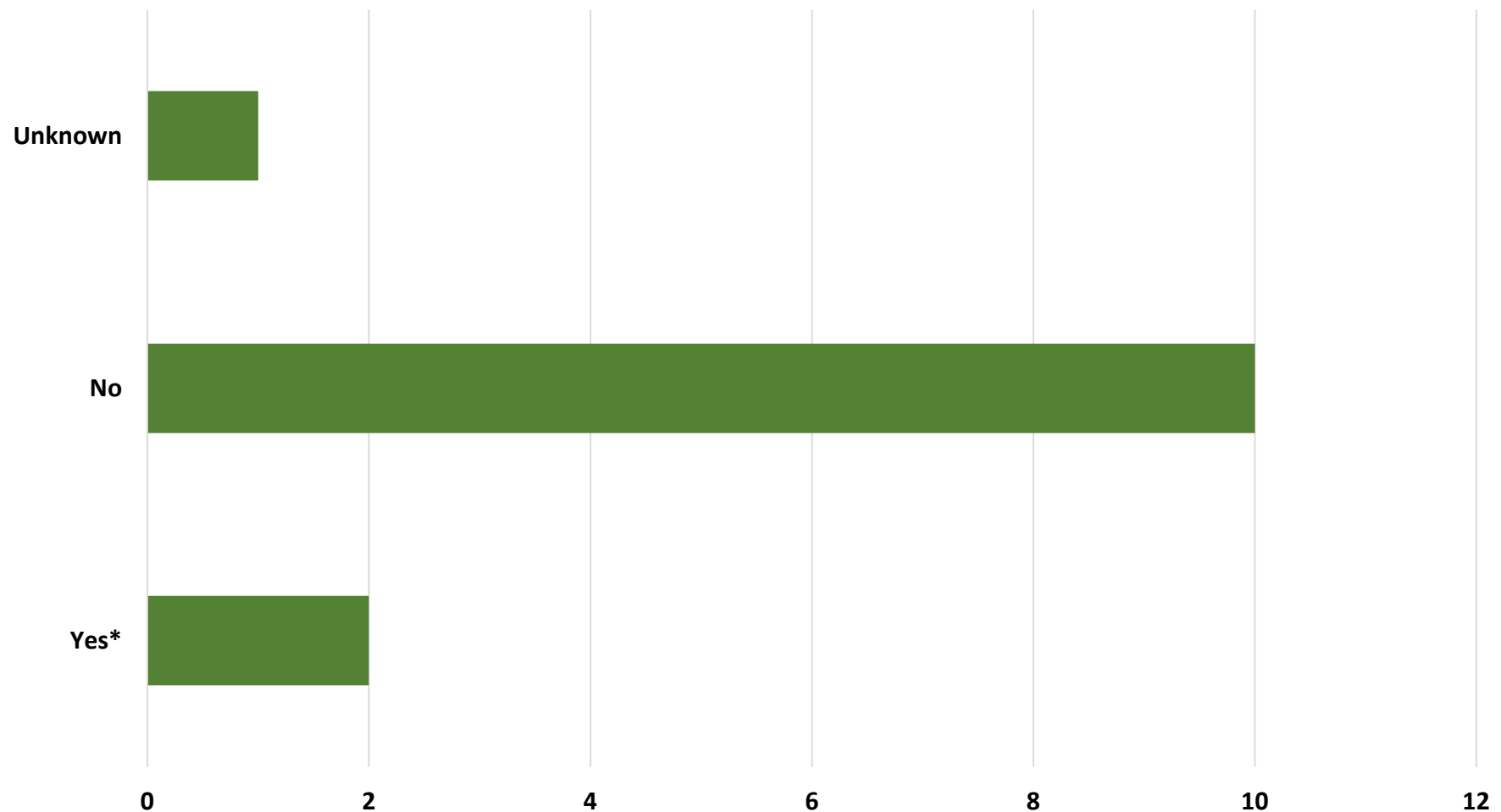


2017 Boating Fatalities Alcohol Use



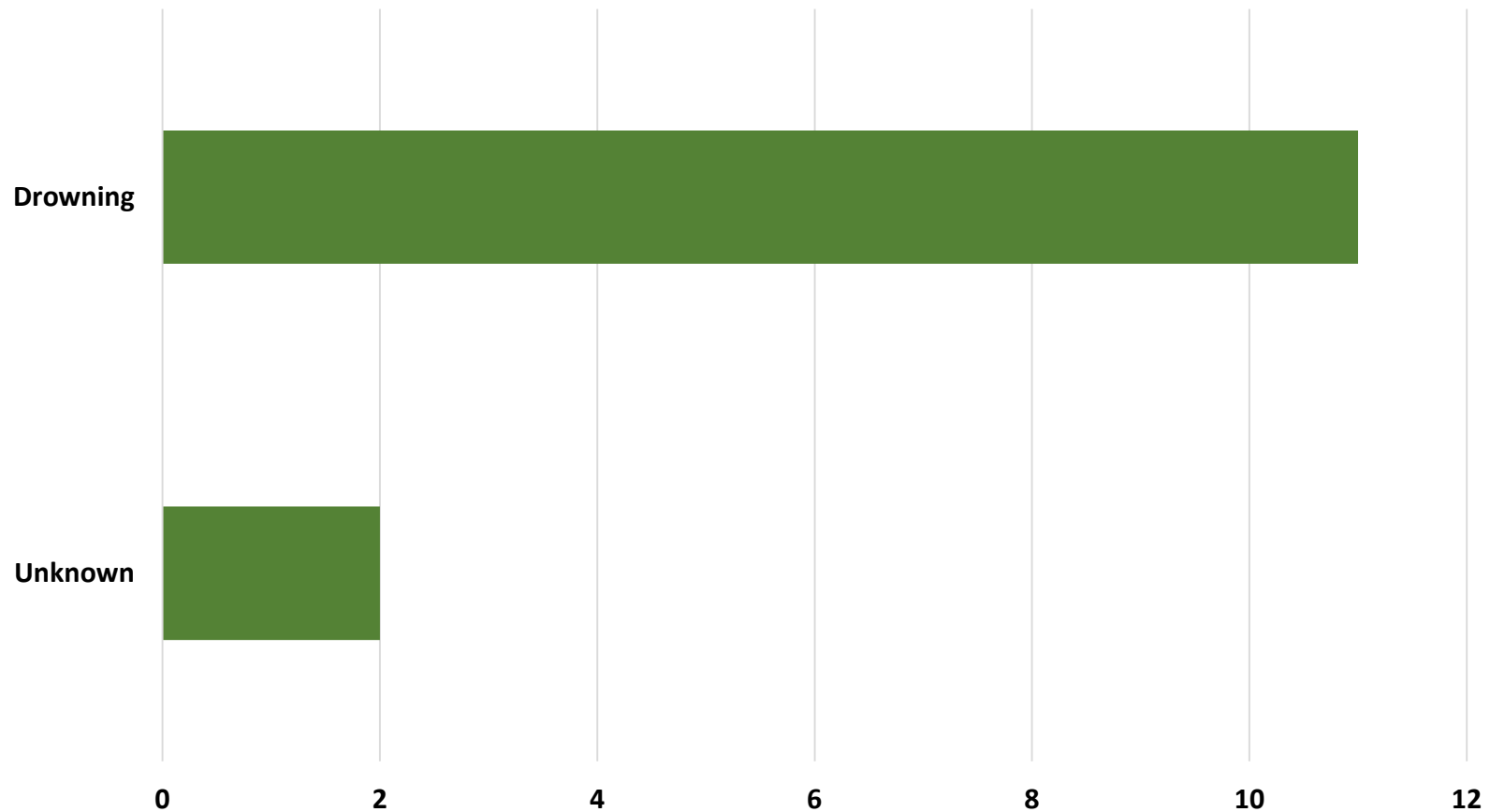
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2017 Boating Fatalities Usage of Life Jackets



* 1 Victim wore a life jacket, but it was not the correct size and it was not correctly worn

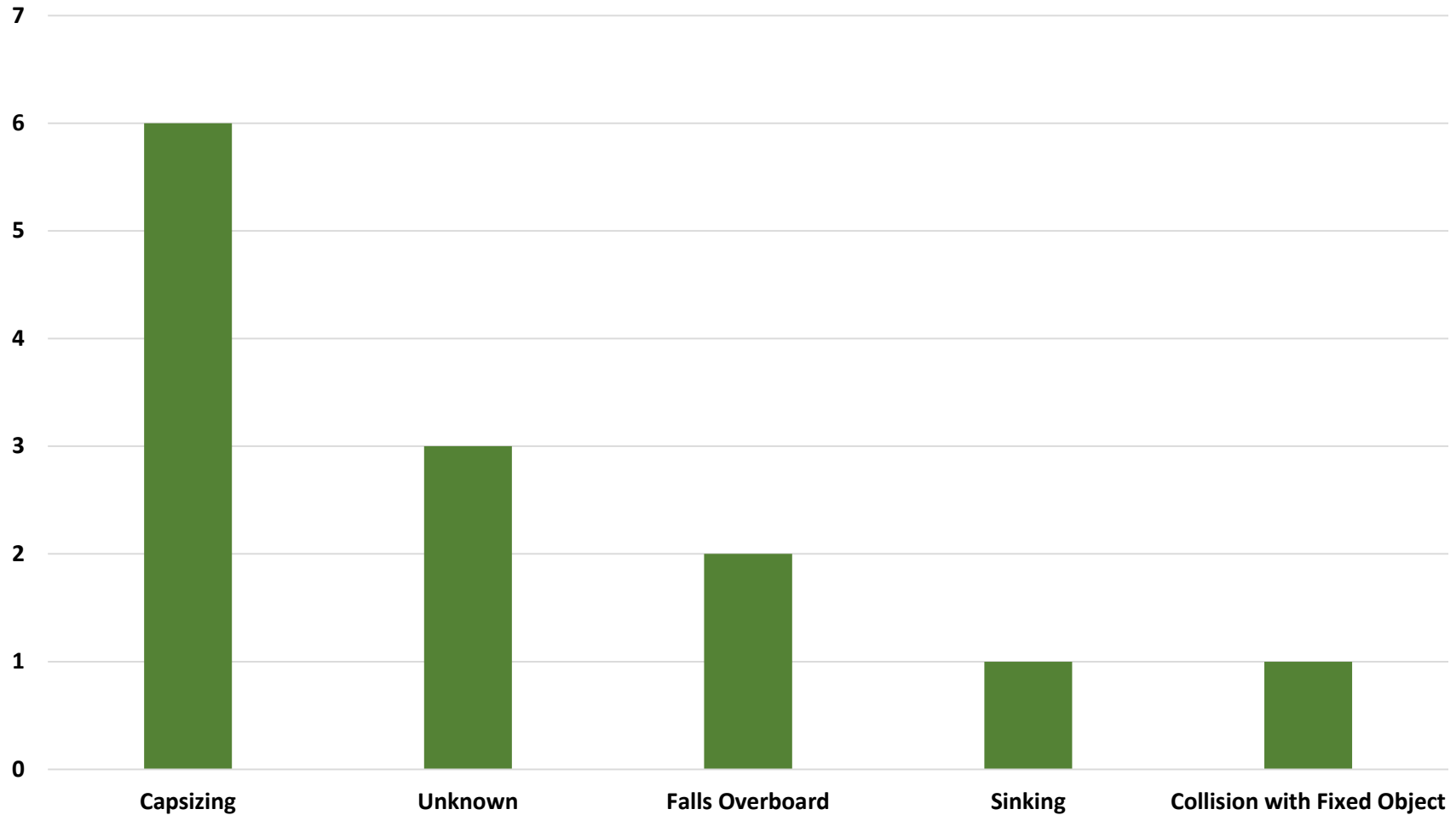
2017 Boating Fatalities Cause of Death



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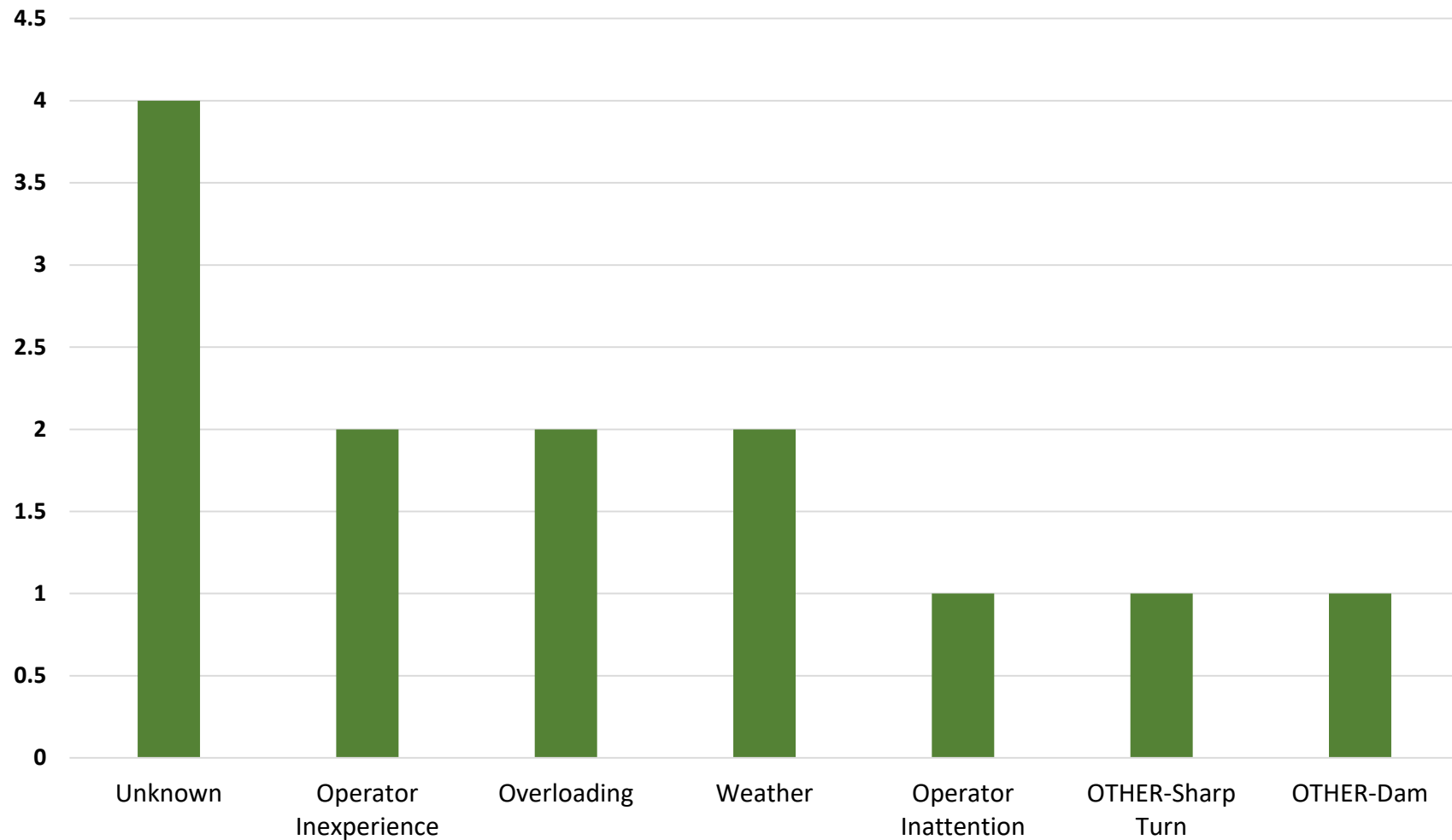
2017 Boating Fatalities

Type of Incident



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2017 Boating Fatalities Cause of Fatal Accident



2017 Boating Fatality Summary

2/13/2017 – York River, time unknown – after 7:30 pm

The victim launched his kayak from Gloucester County (Gloucester Point Beach) at approximately 1800 hours on the evening of 02/13/2017. The 59-year-old male was last seen on security camera arriving at the York County side of the York River and launching from the York County side of the river back towards Gloucester County at approximately 1930 hours. The victim is missing and presumed deceased. It is unknown if life jackets were worn. Operator inexperience, hazardous waters, and weather are listed as the primary contributing factors.

3/31/2017 – Chesapeake Bay, time unknown

Two male victims, ages 47 and 30, were underway in a recreationally registered vessel engaged in commercial fishing on the Chesapeake Bay on a 25' open motorboat. The next day, one victim's family reported him missing. The sunken vessel and the body of the victims were located near the Swash Channel in the Chesapeake Bay. Although the type of incident is unknown, weather and alcohol are suspected as a primary cause of the incident. No life jackets were worn.

2017 Boating Fatality Summary

5/16/2017 – Laurel Creek, Washington County – 4:15pm

The 77-year-old male victim was kayaking down Laurel Creek just northwest of the town of Damascus in Washington County, Virginia. According to his wife, the victim was an experienced whitewater kayaker with many years of experience and had paddled this particular section on numerous occasions. During his float, the victim came upon an old dam that stretched the width of the creek. According to witnesses the victim assessed (viewed) the dam and went over the dam on the right side of it. After the victim went over, the witness observed that the victim disappeared and did not come right back up and then he appeared to be struggling. The victim was wearing a life jacket and a helmet. The cause of death was determined to be drowning.

05/25/2017 – Cherrystone Creek, Northampton, 3:30 pm

A recreationally registered vessel carrying three individuals was returning to the dock after commercially harvesting clams. While en route back to the dock, the vessel encountered a wake from a larger vessel, causing the boat to roll and capsize. The 48-year-old male victim, who could not swim and was wearing neoprene chest waders, was trapped under the vessel and drowned. The cause of capsizing was overloading. No life jackets were worn.

2017 Boating Fatality Summary

06/04/2017 – Chesapeake Bay, Accomack County, 7:30 am

The 73-year-old male victim was last seen alive preparing to fuel his 19' cabin motor boat. 45 minutes later his boat was observed floating on the flats 100 yards across the channel with the engine running in neutral and with the bow line attached and hanging in the water. The victim's body was recovered 8 feet from the fuel pier in 10 feet of water. The cause of the incident is unknown. No life jackets were worn.

06/20/2017 – James River, Buckingham County, 3:00 pm

The victim, a 58-year-old female and the witness were canoeing down the James River in Buckingham County. Around 3:00 pm, the victim and witness encountered some rapids and their canoe capsized. Beyond the rapids was a fallen tree laying across the river. The canoe flipped and was pinned against the fallen tree. The victim became pinned between the canoe and the fallen tree. Bystanders were able to free the victim and start CPR. The cause of the incident was hazardous waters (rapids). No life jackets were worn.

2017 Boating Fatality Summary

7/1/2017 – Lake Anna, Spotsylvania County, 6:30 pm

The 53-year-old male victim was operating an open motorboat on Lake Anna. He was traveling at a high rate of speed and was overtaking another boat, when he made an evasive maneuver to avoid a third boat. This sharp turn caused the operator and passenger to be ejected from the boat, which subsequently struck the tow rope of the second boat and caused injuries to the two occupants of the tube. The cause of the incident is listed as a navigation rules violation and excessive speed. The operator drowned. No life jackets were worn.

7/3/2017 – Carvins Cove Reservoir, Botetourt County, 1:56 pm

The victim, a 57-year-old male, fell from his kayak and attempted to swim to shore. The victim was recovered by bystanders who performed CPR without reviving the victim. The cause of the incident is unknown. No life jackets were worn.

2017 Boating Fatality Summary

8/10/2017 – Rappahannock River, Lancaster County, 11:30 pm

At approximately 11:30 pm, an open motorboat was traveling with two people on board on the Rappahannock River. It is unknown who the operator of the vessel was and the position of the passenger. The evidence indicates that the vessel, while on plane, struck the corner of a bulkhead and ramped over the bulkhead. The 31-year-old male victim was ejected from the vessel and landed in the water. The other occupant was thrown to the deck but remained inside the vessel. The occupant discovered the victim missing from the boat but left the scene. The victim's body was discovered the next day floating in the water at the location where the vessel struck the bulkhead. The cause of the incident is listed as operator inattention and alcohol use. The cause of death was drowning. No life jackets were worn.

8/25/2017 – Burke Lake, Fairfax County, 2:20 pm

At approximately 2:20 pm, the 70-year-old male victim was an occupant in a canoe occupied by one other adult and one juvenile in Burke Lake. The two adults in the canoe had been paddling for around fifteen minutes when the canoe suddenly capsized, approximately 50 yards from shore. An employee at the boat livery observed the canoe in distress and immediately launched a rescue craft to assist. The employee was able to recover one adult and one juvenile. The victim was unable to maintain a hold on either the canoe or the rescue boat. He was last observed attempting to swim on his back with his life jacket still around his neck. After losing his grip on the canoe and the rescue boat, the victim came out of his life jacket and drowned. The canoe and the life jacket that the victim had apparently been wearing were recovered from the shoreline at 6:30 pm. The recovered life jacket was a children's TYPE II life jacket (for 50-90lbs). It is unknown what caused the boat to capsize.

2017 Boating Fatality Summary

9/09/2017 – Buggs Island, Mecklenburg County, 5:16 pm

The 55-year-old male operator of a 19 ft. sailboat fell overboard when the vessel made a sharp turn. The operator was not wearing a personal flotation device and drowned in 81 feet of water approximately 50 yards from shore on Buggs Island Lake. The cause of the incident is unknown, although alcohol may have been a factor.

11/02/2017 – Falling Creek Reservoir, Chesterfield County

Two males were fishing from a 10' jon boat when one of the occupants stood up in the boat, causing the boat to swamp from the stern. Both occupants ended up in the water. One of the occupants made it to the shore. The victim, an 81-year-old male, went under the water near the boat and did not resurface. No life jackets were worn.